Serial No.: 09/768,374   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/370001/P10176

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and
listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a packet at a proxy node in a system area network
from a first node that generated the packet using a first
protocol;

translating the packet using a second protocol used by a
second node; and

sending the translated packet from the proxy node to the
second node;

wherein the first and second protocols comprise first and
second transport-layer, connection-oriented, byte stream based
protocols, ~~and~~ the proxy node manages first and second endpoints
corresponding to the first and second protocols, and the
translating comprises relaying a byte stream and maintaining
byte stream order over the first and second protocols.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein translating
the packet comprises translating a single packet into multiple
packets and wherein sending the translated packet comprises
sending several translated packets.

2

Serial No.: 09/768,374   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/370001/P10176

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the
packet comprises receiving multiple packets, translating the
packet comprises translating the multiple packets into a single
packet and sending the translated packet comprises sending the
single translated packet.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the
first protocol is based on Transmission Control
Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and the second protocol is
based on a lightweight, system area network protocol.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the
first protocol is based on a lightweight, system area network
protocol and the second protocol is based on Transmission
Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first node
comprises a network client coupled to the proxy node through a
network node, and the second node comprises an application node.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first node
comprises an application node and the second node comprises a
network client coupled to the proxy node through a network node.

3

Serial No.: 09/768,374   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/370001/P10176

8. (currently amended) A method of protocol processing
comprising:

receiving a packet at a proxy node in a system area network
from a first node that generated the packet using a first
protocol wherein the packet is addressed to a second node in the
system area network that uses a second protocol;

processing the packet in the proxy node; and

sending a response from the proxy node to the first node
using the first protocol, if said processing results in a
determination that the packet comprises a transport-layer
control packet that need not be translated and sent to the
second node;

wherein the first and second protocols comprise first and
second transport-layer, connection-oriented, byte stream based
protocols.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the
first protocol is based on Transmission Control
Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and the second protocol is
based on a lightweight, system area network protocol.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein
the first protocol is based on a lightweight, system area

4

network protocol and the second protocol is based on
Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

   11. (currently amended) A system comprising:

   a system area network comprising a network node, a proxy
node, and an application node; and

   a network client;

      wherein the proxy node comprises a processor
configured for:

   receiving a first packet from the network client through
the network node addressed to the application node using a first
protocol; and

   if the first packet meets a specified criterion relating to
whether a connection has already been established between the
network client and the proxy node using the first protocol,
translating the first packet using a second protocol used by the
application node, and sending the translated first packet to the
application node;

      wherein the first and second protocols comprise first and
second transport-layer, connection-oriented, byte stream based
protocols.

   12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the
proxy node processor is further configured for processing the

5

first packet if the first packet does not meet the specified criterion ~~criteria~~.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the proxy node processor is further configured for sending a response to the network client through the network node using the first protocol, the response being in reply to the first packet if the first packet does not meet the specified <u>criterion</u> ~~criteria~~.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the proxy node processor is further configured for receiving a second packet from the application node addressed to the network client using the second protocol;

if the second packet meets a ~~specified~~ <u>second</u> criterion, translating the second packet using the first protocol and sending the translated second packet to the network client through the network node.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the proxy node processor is further configured for processing the second packet if the second packet does not meet the ~~specified~~ ~~criteria~~ <u>second criterion</u>.

6

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the proxy node processor is further configured for sending a response to the application node using the second protocol, the response being in reply to the second packet if the second packet does not meet the ~~specified criteria~~ second criterion.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the first protocol is based on Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and the second protocol is based on a lightweight, system area network protocol.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising a plurality of network clients, and wherein the system area network comprises a plurality of network nodes, a plurality of proxy nodes and a plurality of application nodes, wherein each proxy node comprises a respective processor configured for:

receiving an input packet from one of the network clients through one of the network nodes addressed to a particular one of the application nodes using a first protocol; and

if the input packet meets a specified criterion, translating the input packet using a second protocol used by the particular application node, and sending the translated input packet to the particular application node.

7

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein
each network node comprises a processor configured for
performing load balancing among the proxy nodes based on
protocol processing requirements.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein
the proxy node processors are further configured for performing
load balancing among the application nodes based on application
processing requirements.

21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of network ports; and

a processor configured for:

receiving through one of the network ports a first packet
from a network client through a network node in a system area
network that generated the first packet using a first protocol;
and

if the first packet meets a specified criterion relating to
whether a connection has already been established with the
network client using the first protocol, translating the first
packet using a second protocol used by an application node and
sending the translated first packet through one of the network
ports to the application node;

8

Serial No.: 09/768,374   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/370001/P10176

wherein the first and second protocols comprise first and second transport-layer, connection-oriented, byte stream based protocols.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further configured for processing the first packet and sending a response to the network client through the network node using the first protocol if the first packet does not meet the specified criterion, the response being in reply to the first packet.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further configured for:

receiving a second packet through one of the network ports from the application node using the second protocol;

if the second packet meets a ~~specified~~ second criterion, translating the second packet using the first protocol and sending the translated second packet to the network client through the network node.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the processor is further configured for processing the ~~first~~ second packet and sending a response to the application node using the second protocol if the second packet does not meet the

9

second criterion ~~specified criteria~~, the response being in reply to the ~~first~~ second packet.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further configured for performing load balancing among application nodes connected to the network ports based on application processing requirements.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first protocol is based on a lightweight, system area network protocol and the second protocol is based on Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first protocol is based on Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

28. (currently amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

receive a first packet at a proxy node in a system area network from a network client through a network node using a first protocol;

if the first packet meets a specified criterion relating to whether a connection has already been established between the

10

Serial No.: 09/768,374   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/370001/P10176

<u>network client and the proxy node using the first protocol</u>,
translate the first packet using a second protocol used by an
application node and send the translated first packet to the
application node;

wherein the first and second protocols comprise first and
second transport-layer, connection-oriented, byte stream based
protocols.

29. (previously presented) The article of claim 28 further
comprising instructions for causing the computer system to
process the first packet and send a response to the network
client through the network node using the first protocol if the
first packet does not meet the specified criterion, the response
being in reply to the first packet.

30. (original) The article of claim 28 further comprising
instructions for causing the computer system to:
receive a second packet at the proxy node from the
application node using the second protocol;
translate the second packet using the first protocol; and
send the translated second packet to the network client
through the network node.

11